

REMARKS

Claims 6-12 are pending in this application, of which claims 1-5 and 13 have been canceled, claims 6-8 have been withdrawn from consideration, and claims 9, 11 and 12 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has objected to claims 9 and 11-12 for various informalities which have been corrected in the aforementioned amendments.

Claims 9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

Accordingly, claims 9 and 11-12 have been amended to correct the noted instances of indefiniteness.

Claims 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,808,577 to Miyazaki et al. (hereafter, "**Miyazaki et al.**") in view of U.S. Patent 5,655,287 to Ushiro (hereafter, "**Ushiro**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Miyazaki et al. discloses a process for producing a monolithic ceramic electronic component, which includes: providing a ceramic slurry, a conductive paste and a ceramic paste; forming a plurality of composite structures each comprising a ceramic green sheet produced by shaping the ceramic slurry, internal circuit element films formed by applying the conductive paste partially onto a main surface of the ceramic green sheet so as to provide step-like sections, and a ceramic green layer which compensates for spaces defined by the step-like sections, the ceramic green layer being formed by applying the ceramic paste onto the region on the main

surface of the sheet on which the element films are not formed so as to substantially compensate for the spaces; forming a green laminate by laminating the composite structures; and firing the green laminate. A monolithic ceramic electronic component which is produced through the process; a ceramic paste; and a production process of the paste are also disclosed.

Column 11, lines 47-55 disclose:

A ceramic green layer 22 is formed on the region on the main surface of the ceramic green sheet 15 on which the hook-shaped conductive film 20 is not formed so as to substantially compensate for spaces defined by the step-like sections formed by the film 20. The ceramic green layer 22 is formed by applying the ceramic paste onto the sheet 15 through screen printing (e.g., a paste containing magnetic ceramic powder which has specific features in the present invention), and then drying the resultant sheet.

Ushiro has been cited for teaching “a plurality of strip portions of magnetic material [27] dispersed within said first material [17 in FIG. 3(c)].”

Ushiro cannot be combined with Miyazaki et al. to teach the present invention because Miyazaki et al. teaches providing the ceramic paste containing magnetic powder only on the areas where the circuit element patterns are not formed, which is in contrast to the present invention in which the magnetic strip portions are dispersed uniformly within or uniformly distributed on a surface of the first material, as disclosed on page 13, lines 14-16 of the specification of the instant application.

Accordingly, claim 9 has been amended to recite this distinction.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

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Response to Office Action dated December 28, 2005

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 9-12, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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